Lett. II-27—100,000—21-5-52.

Food & Agriculture (1954 9) Department.

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G.O. No.	1332 1332
Dated	4-11-49

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Cotton - Increased cultivation in Madras - Discussion of P.W.D. Secretary with the Govt. of India, Ministry of Agriculture - New Delhi -Papers recorded -

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Development Department

U.O. NOTE NO.29863 AIII/49-1 dated 22nd March 1949.

Sub: Grow More Food - Public Works Secretary -Visit to Delhi March 1949 - Notes on discussions.

Relevant extracts of the notes of discussions that the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Madras had with the ministry of Agriculture on Grow More Food matters on 12-3-49 are forwarded to the concerned Departments and sections in Development for further action.

N. Murugesa Mudaliar,
Assistant Secretary to Government.

To
The Revenue Department.
The G. Section in Development Department.
The P & D.I Department.
The D.I. in Development Department.
The AII Section in Development Department.
The L. Section in Development Department.

The phrase "Grow More Food" covers much larger ground than what is usually understood at present. The phrase is also incorrect and creates a certain amount of odium. It is, therefore, proposed that this terminology may be dropped and what is called Grow More Food now may be called intensive cultivation schemes.

Cotton.

As a result of the partition of the country, the Indian Union is dependent on long and medium staple cotton from Pakistan to the extent of about 9 lakh bales on the basis of the present figures of production within the country, mill consumption and stocks. The Indian Union also imports about 7 lakh bales of long staple cotton (1" and above) from Egypt, Sudan, South Africa, etc. In view of the technical difficulties of increasing the production of the latter varieties, the Indian Union will have to depend on imports for some time to come. With regard to the varieties imported from Pakistan, however, there is scope for the production to be increased considerably.

A planned programme of expansion of the production of medium and long staple cottons is under the consideration of the Ministry of Agriculture. The plan envisages and additional production of about 2.03 lakh bales of long staple cotton and 0.99 lakh bales of medium staples cotton by intensive cultivation on the existing acreage under cotton by the use of fertilisers, improved seeds, irrigation facilities, etc. Nevertheless, there will remain a deficit of about 6 lakh bales which will have to be made up either by diversion of the acreage now under short staple cotton to medium and long staple varieties, or the extension of cotton cultivation to new lands. In this connection investigations made by the I.C.C.C. show that there are about 15 lakh acres of land in the main cotton growing tracts which were originally under cotton and are now lying fallow. The suggestion has therefore been made that efforts should be made to bring this area under cotton, so as to make up the present deficit.

It is therefore proposed that apart from taking measures to increase the yields of medium and long staple cotton on the existing acreage, land should be diverted from short staple cotton to medium and long staple cotton wherever possible. It is also proposed that if the land is not suitable for medium and long staple varieties, then the possibility ~~fo~~ of exchanging such land with suitable lands now under foodgrains should be ~~explor~~

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explored. Another suggestion is that the possibility of relaxing existing restrictions on the cultivation of cotton in areas where long staple cotton and the better varieties of medium staple cotton could be grown should be explored. It is felt in particular that the restrictions which involve uneconomic cultivation of cotton by wa of prescribing too small a proportion of the total holding which may be sown to cotton should be modified. It is for consideration whether the above measures could be taken without detriment to the production of foodgrains and, if so, how much acreage can be diverted in all to cotton.

JUTE.

The present deficit of jute in the Indian Union is of the order of 49.5 lakh bales, representing a difference between the requirements of 70.5 lakh bales and the production ø in 1948-49 of 21 lakh bales. Since jute is of great importance as a raw material for the jute mill industry, which is concentrated entirely in the Indian Union, and the jute manufactures account for a large proportion of our hard currency earnings, it is imperative that we should reduce our dependence on Pakistan, which is the only source of supply of raw jute.

Out of the above deficit, it is expected that about 13 lakh bales can be made up by 1951-52 as a result of the use of fertilisers, improved seeds, irrigation facilities, etc. In order to make up the balance deficit of 37 lakh bales, it would be necessary to extend the present area under jute, or alternatively to resort to double cropping. Investigations carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture reveal that it is possible to extend cultivation in West Bengal, Cooch Bihar, Tripura, Bihar, Orissa and Assam by about 2.6 lakh acres, yielding about 7 lakh bales. It is proposed to take for jute cultivation only lands which are either lying uncultivated now or which can be cropped with jute following rice. It is for consideration how much land can actually be diverted to jute in this manner during the next season.

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Food Department.

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This file relates to the question of

(1) the measures necessary for augmenting cotton production in this Province without detriment to the production of food grains in order to make it self-sufficient in respect of long and medium varieties of cotton, much in demand by the textile industry and

I have no faith in this if the acreage under cotton is to be increased.

(2) steps to be taken for the encouragement of Jute cultivation with a view to reduce our dependence on Pakistan which is the only source of supply of raw jute.

The text of the notes of discussions on the above points will be found at pp.1-3 c.f.

Point (1) above: The D.A. states that there are methods of increasing the area under cotton in the Madras Province:-

(a) Diversion of land from short staple to medium and long staple cottons.
(b) Interchange of food and cotton areas in such tracts where such exchange will benefit staple cotton cultivation without affecting food production.
(c) Relaxation of restrictions imposed on cotton in regions where better varieties could be profitably grown.

Item (a) above: Please see the D.A's remarks on this suggestion in para 3 on p.11 c.f. The following table gives in brief the spread of the improved strains in 1947-48 in the Province.

Tract.	Total area in 1947-48 as per final forecast for 1947-48 (oo's omitted)	Area under improved strains. (oo's omitted.)	% spread.	Remarks.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Strains:
Cambodia.	2607	1989	76	Co.2, Co.3, Co.4 4463 and 920.
Tinnies.	4084	1771	43	K1, K2, Co.5
Westerns	5010	3796	76	H1
Northerns	670	14	2	N.14
Cocanadas.	839	42	5	G.1.started in
Mungari	270	-	-	1947 - 881F.just released for
Chinnapathi	31	-	-	multiplication.
Uppam in Central districts	91	-	-	Co.5 started in
Nadam and Borbon	7	--	--	1947.
Total	13609	7572	55.6	

The D.A. states that an early enactment of the Madras Cotton Control Bill under consideration of Govt. will speed up the conversion of lands from short staple to medium and long staple cotton, for which there is a large demand from the trade. Submitted that a Memorandum about the proposed legislation has been circulated under Sectt. Instruction 32(2) to H.Ms. who have not seen the case for orders, whether the need for the legislation will be accepted by Govt. It is likely that the Bill will be passed into law ere long. Seed distribution Schemes of Co.2 Co.5 and Co.4 now running inthe Southern districts will cater to a very large area of about ten lakhs of acres of Cambodia and Tunnies area in the southern zone. A 5000 acres of seed farm is already being run for H1 cotton strain for the

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~~cotton strain for the~~ Westerns area. The G.I cotton Scheme started in 1947-48 will serve the Cocanada's area in Guntur, Nellore and Krishna Districts. As regards Northern tract, the D.A. has stated in another connection that the spread of strain N14 suited to this tract has been fluctuating and limited due to low ginning and late habit. If and when a suitable strain is evolved overcoming these defects, the Agrl. Dept. will no doubt take necessary steps for the multiplication and distribution of such a strain in Northerns area also.

It may be mentioned here that "A Production Plan of Raw Cotton In Madras" prepared by the Cotton Specialist setting out the various long and short term measures necessary for increasing the producting of cotton in this province is under the consideration of the I.C.C.C. With a view to improve the cotton yields per unit area and the total production, the D.A. has prepared a scheme for the award of cash prizes to the best farmer who grows each of the varietieis of Co.2, Co3, Co4, Karunganni, etc. The scheme is under consideration and will be forawarded to the I.C.C.C., if approved by Govt. As adequate steps are already being taken for the cultivationof superior strains of cotton no further action seems necessary in the matter.

Item (b) above: For orders whether the D.A's view on this item contained in para 4 on p.11 c.f. will be accepted and if so, whether the D.A. may be asked to do propaganda about the agronomic practices recommended among the ryots concerned.

Item (c) above: There is no statutory restriction at present on the cultivationof cottom in any area inthis province. The D.A. states that there is also the possibility of a general increase in the area under irrigated cotton if the present stipulation in the matter of cultivation of food crops under the well subsidy scheme is relaxed and the farmers are ~~the new~~ and given the option to grow cottonin rotation with food crops under the new and renovated wells. Rev. Dept. may see for remarks on this suggestion and they may be requested to take relevant extracts from this file for further action, if necessary. For orders.

Point (ii) on p.2 above: The Govt. have ~~already~~ recently sanctioned a scheme for conducting exploratory trials with Bengal jute in the Province during 1949-50 - Vide G.O.No.3121 Dev. dated 10-6-49. In view of this, no further action is called for on this suggestion. For orders.

(The above note will be useful in connection with the visit of Mr. Kalidas Savheny, Secy. of the Indian Central Cotton Committee on 13.8.49. We may maintain the positionthat we cannot recommend diversion of cereal cropping to cotton and all that we can do is (1) evolve high yielding strains of medium and long staple varieties inorder to increase production (2) encourage mixed cropping of cottonwherever possible and (3) encourage cotton growing either as second or first crop in areas of low rainfall(eg. lower slopes of hill ranges of Mathurai dt. mentioned by the D.A.)

(Sd.)
10-8-49.

Mr. Sawhney met me on the 13th . I pointed out to him that we are having a concerted drive for growing more "food" and that the production of cotton could come only next to "food." He agreed with me entirely but said that he is aiming at producing more cotton without in the least affecting the production of food. According to him, certain lands have necessarily to resort to a rotation of crops and in the case of dry lands, it is invariably millet and cotton or ground-nut and cotton. In all such cases, he has no objection to a food crop being grown first and then cotton. He also explained that while the millet crop or the ground nut crop would exhaust the fertility in the upper layer or the surface of the soil, cotton would send down roots deeper and tap the lower regions and that there would be no clash of interests in respect of lands which require a rotation in cropping.

He also told me that the inspected the lands available for cotton cultivation in Madura district. They are situated in the interior and form part of some Zamindari. A portion of it, it appears was cleared and some cultivation was attempted several years ago but it went out of use again, owing to disputes between the Zamindar and his tenants. Again it is now overgrown with vegetation but the clearance of this portion may not be difficult. But it is understood that there are other difficulties, which under the present circumstances, it may not be easy to overcome. Apart from the fact that the lands lie in a Zamindari and the zamin tenure is under-going a rapid change and it would take some time before things are brought into some shape, this block is situated in a very inaccessible part of the district, more or less at the foot of the western ghats, highly malarial and sparsely populated. It is not easy to overcome all these difficulties and put the land to some useful purpose within a period of 3 or 4 years, with which we are immediately concerned. Mr. Sawhney also mentioned that there is also a big irrigation tank in this area and that it would be possible to set it right and increase, the area under food crops by about a thousand acres. This will be worth investigating. He has promised to send us his notes of inspection, which I think,,are likely to contain some useful information from the point of view of G.M.F. also. They may be awaited.

(Sd.)xxxx
15-8-49.

To A.S.

Please see secretary's notes from p.5 above. The notes of inspection promised by Mr. Sawhney reggarding the lands in Madura perhaps be awaited till 15-9-49.

As the proposal in this file relates to G.M.F. policy and diversion of area from non-food to food crops, it is for orders whether this may be transferred to 'L' section for further action.

(Orders are also solicited in LF.I and L.F.III below)

It does not seem necessary to transfer this file to 'L' sn. 'K' section has to take action on 'M' on p.4 above. It would seem more appropriate that 'K' section give to this section necessary extract from this file so that this section may take necessary action on Mr. Sawhney's note referred to at 'K' above on its receipt. For orders.

(Sd.) xxx
29-8-49.

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TO. A.S.

Notes from p.2 above may be perused. Separate extracts were taken with reference to 'N' on p.6 above and the Secretary, I.C.C.C. is being reminded in another file regarding the further report promised at 'K' on p.6 above.

2. A note about the policy of Govt. regarding cotton cultivation has been submitted in the top file. In the light of any orders that may be passed in that file 'L' section may perhaps issue final orders in this case regarding the suggestions of the D.A. in paras 4 and 5 on p.11 c.f. (As the discussion of Secretary, I.C.C.C. with the Secretary is now over, no action appears necessary in 'K' section with reference to 'M' on p.4 above. For orders)

It seems advisable to pursue further action with the help of necessary extracts and open a separate file in order to avoid confusion. K section may issue orders in this file and say that orders will be issued separately on the other points. For orders.

'K' will please put up a note for orders.

(sd.) xxx
5-10-49

To A.S.

A above. Mr. Sawhney, Secretary, I.C.C.C., toured this Province between 24th to 16th August 1949 for the following purposes:-

(a) Investigation of the possibilities of cultivation of cotton in the demanded forest areas of the Zamindari estate of Gandamangayakanur in Madura Dist. in 1949-50.

(b) investigating the possibility of bringing the fallow areas in the Bellary district under the cotton crop in the coming season (1949-50); and

(c) the formulation of a programme for increasing the production of cotton in the Madras Province.

He met the Secretary on the 13th August 1949 and had a discussion with him in the matter. Attention is invited to the notes of the Secretary at pp.5-6 above after the discussion with Mr. Sawhney. The Secretary, I.C.C.C., has since sent his tour notes containing his suggestions and recommendations for increasing the production of cotton in the different districts of the Province. He has also dealt within that reports the possibility of reclaiming about 5000 acres in Gandamanayakanur Zamin in Mathurai Dt. for cultivation of food and cotton crops. The suggestions of the Secretary, I.C.C.C. in his tour notes are being examined separately.

2. Please see in this connection the D.A's letter at p.11 c.f. The D.A's suggestion at 'M' on p.11 c.f. for increasing the cultivation of cotton in Madras Province were examined in the notes at pp.1-4 above and the case was submitted to the Secretary during his discussion with Mr. Sawhney, referred to in para due one above.

contd:.

Para 4 on p.11 c.f.

Adoption of certain agronomic practices in S.Arcot, Chingleput and Mathurai for cotton cultivation.

Mr. Sawhney's report already received containing suggestions on the cropping practices necessary for increasing the production of cotton in the different districts of the Province. Mr. Sawhney's recommendations cover the above, districts also. As the proposals of the Secretary, I.C.C.C., are being examined in consultation with the D.A. separately, no specific action is called for on 'A' above in this file.

Para 5 on p.11 c.f.

Relaxations of the stipulations under the 'New well subsidy scheme' to permit the cultivation of cotton in rotation with food crops.

The suggestion is considered not worthwhile pursuing-- vide 'A' on p.4 above. As the question as to what steps are necessary to increase cotton cultivation in this Province without deteriment to food crops has been dealt with in the comprehensive report of Mr. Sawhney and as the D.A. does not seek specific orders of Govt. on 'A' and 'B' above, the papers may be recorded. For orders.

(Sd.)xxx
2-11-49.

G.O.Ms.No.1332, dated 4-11-1949.

Sub: Agriculture - Cotton - Increased cultivation in Madras - Discussion of P.W.D. Secretary with the Govt. of India, Ministry of Agri., New Delhi - Papers recorded -

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Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

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